

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----051003Z 012639 /13/50
P R 041600Z MAY 77 CORRECTED COPY FOR MCN
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3405
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4219

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CG, MASS
SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: CONSULTATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA

REF: (A) STATE 09336 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 100266 (NOTAL),
(C) STATE 099551 (NOTAL), (D) KINSHASA 4146

1. SUMMARY: DURING MAY 4 MEETING FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA
EXPRESSUQX189,,
REITERATED GOZ'S IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE OF CONTROLLING BORDER
WITH NEUTRAL AFRICAN OBSERVERS, AND CONVEYED GOZ CONCERN RE
CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL EFFORTS TO REDUCE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO
ZAIRE. OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED INCLUDED UPCOMING MONDALE-
VORSTER MEETING, ZAIRIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS.
END SUMMARY.

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2. I HAD LONG MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA MAY 4, THE
FIRST SINCE HE RETURNED FROM AN EXTENDED ABSENCE, FIRST AT
DAKAR FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT AND THEN WITH MOBUTU IN SHABA.
FOLLOWING WERE THE MAIN POINTS WE COVERED.

3. SHABA INVASION: NGUZA SAID FAZ CONTINUED TO MAKE MILITARY
PROGRESS BUT RESISTANCE WAS INCREASING AS THEY PUSHED CLOSER

TO BORDER WITH CONSEQUENT INCREASE IN FAZ/MOROCCAN CASUALTIES AND DAMAGE TO TOWNS AND INFRASTRUCTURE. (THIS REMINDED ME OF RHETORICAL QUERY MOBUTU MADE IN PREVIOUS CONVERSATION AS TO WHO WOULD PAY RECONSTRUCTION COSTS.) KASAJI WAS KEY MILITARY OBJECTIVE, AND ONCE THAT WAS RECAPTURED "KATANGANS WOULD BE FINISHED".

4. NIGERIAN MEDIATION: NGUZA REITERATED GOZ'S IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE OF GETTING ANGOLA TO AGREE TO NEUTRAL AFRICAN OBSERVERS ALONG SHABA BORDER, THUS SEALING FRONTIER AND ASSURING THAT INVASION WAS INDEED ZAIRIAN INTERNAL AFFAIR AS ANGOLANS HAVE CLAIMED ALL ALONG. ONCE BORDER SEALED, ZAIRE WOULD BE FREE TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTIONS NECESSARY TO REASSERT FULL CONTROL WITHIN ITS OWN TERRITORY. GOZ WOULD AT THAT POINT ALSO BE WILLING TO SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS WITH ANGOLA ALL OTHER BILATERAL PROBLEMS. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY, NGUZA REPEATED GOZ'S WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT OBSERVERS ALONG BORDER OUTSIDE SHABA, INCLUDING ZAIRE-CABINDAN FRONTIER. NGUZA THOUGHT ZAIRE'S NEGOTIATING POSITION VIS-A-VIS ANGOLA WAS BOTH STRONG AND JUST, AND SAID NIGERIANS FULLY SHARED THIS VIEW. (GARBA SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN KINSHASA LATER TODAY FROM LUANDA, WILL PROCEED TO SHABA TO CONSULT WITH MOBUTU.) I BRIEFED NGUZA ON OUR LATEST DIRECT CONTACTS WITH ANGOLANS (REF A), STRESSING IN THIS CONNECTION EFFORTS WE WERE MAKING TO INDUCE ANGOLANS TO COOPERATE IN SEEKING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THEIR PROBLEMS WITH ZAIRE.

5. US ASSISTANCE: NGUZA SAID HE WAS UPSET BY REPORTS OF CONGRESSIONAL EFFORTS TO REDUCE MILITARY AID TO ZAIRE, NOTING SPECIFICALLY PROPOSALS BY CONGRESSMAN DIGGS. I DREW ON CONFIDENTIAL

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REF B TO BRIEF NGUZA ON STATE OF PLAY, CAUTIONING HIM THAT CONGRESS WAS FOCUSING ON FY-78 (NOT FY-77) APPROPRIATIONS, THAT NO FINAL DECISIONS YET MADE, AND THAT PROPOSED REDUCTIONS REFLECTED WISHES OF CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF CONGRESS RATHER THAN POSITION OF ADMINISTRATION.

6. ZAIRE-SOVIET RELATIONS: I NOTED THAT NGUZA'S MAY 2 SPEECH ATTACKING SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA (REF D) HAD STIMULATED MUCH SPECULATION AMONG DIPLOMATIC CORPS THAT GOZ MIGHT SOON SUSPEND RELATIONS WITH USSR AS IT HAD WITH EAST GERMANY. NGUZA SAID MOBUTU'S MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO PUT SOVIETS ON NOTICE AND "KEEP THEM GUESSING". HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT FOR TIME BEING GOZ DID NOT INTEND TO SUSPEND RELATIONS, COMMENTING THAT IT WAS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT FOR ZAIRE TO MAINTAIN AN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW THAN IN BERLIN.

7. MONDALE-VORSTER MEETING: I MADE APPROPRIATE POINTS CONTAINED REF C. NGUZA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND SAID HE WOULD CONVEY THEM TO MOBUTU. HE COMMENTED THAT VICE

PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL PARTICIPATION WAS ENCOURAGING INDICATION THAT
US INTENDED TO PLAY PROMINENT, CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN HELPING
AFRICANS RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS.

8. HUMAN RIGHTS: I GAVE NGUZA FULL TEXT OF SECRETARY VANCE'S
ATLANTA SPEECH, WHICH NGUZA SAID WAS OF OBVIOUS
IMPORTANCE AND INTEREST TO ZAIRE. I ALSO GAVE NGUZA COPY
OF CONGRESSIONAL REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN OTHER
COUNTRIES, WHICH MOBUTU HAD REQUESTED. NGUZA READ ENTIRE
SECTION E)\$(8 SUBSEQUENT
DISCUSSION I STRESSED RELEVANCE OF GOZ'S RECORD ON
HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONTINUATION OF US EFFORTS TO ASSIST ZAIRE
IN COPING WITH CURRENT DIFFICULTIES.

9. OTHER BILATERAL MATTERS DISCUSSED DURING MEETING WILL BE
REPORTED SEPTELS.

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